

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) An image enlarging apparatus comprising:

an imaging means for outputting a photographed image of a subject, wherein a vertical line count and a horizontal line count of the photographed image are greater than a vertical line count and a horizontal line count of a television format;

an image cropping means for receiving the photographed image output from said imaging means, for cropping the photographed image, and for generating a cropped image, the photographed image being cropped by cutting off at least a top portion and a bottom portion of the received photographed image such that (i) a vertical line count and a horizontal line count of the received photographed image are not compressed, and (ii) the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the cropped image matches the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the television format;

an image compression processing means for receiving the photographed image output from said imaging means, for compressing the photographed image such that the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the photographed image match the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the television format, and for generating a compressed image;

a switching means for selecting at least one of the cropped image generated by said image cropping means and the compressed image generated by said image compression processing means and for outputting the selected image; and

an enlargement processing means for enlarging the selected image output from said switching means,

wherein, when said switching means selects the cropped image, said image cropping

means performs the cropping by instantaneously enlarging the photographed image according to a predetermined enlargement ratio without compressing the photographed image and outputs the instantaneously enlarged photographed image to said switching means as the selected cropped image.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) The image enlarging apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein said image cropping means specifies on the photographed image a start point at one corner of a rectangular cropped image and an end point at a diagonally opposite corner of the rectangular cropped image.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) The image enlarging apparatus as described in claim 1, further comprising a cropping area determining means for setting a location of the image to be cropped from the photographed image.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) An image enlarging method comprising:

producing a photographed image of a subject, wherein a vertical line count and a horizontal line count of the photographed image are greater than a vertical line count and a horizontal line count of a television format;

cropping the photographed image and generating a cropped image by cutting off at least a top portion and a bottom portion of the received photographed image such that (i) a vertical line

count and a horizontal line count of the received photographed image are not compressed, and
(ii) the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the cropped image matches the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the television format;

compressing, via an image enlarging apparatus, the photographed image such that the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the photographed image match the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the television format and generating a compressed image;

selecting at least one of the cropped image generated by said cropping of the photographed image and the compressed image generated by said compressing of the photographed image; and

enlarging the selected image,

wherein, when said selecting selects the cropped image, said cropping performs the cropping by instantaneously enlarging the photographed image according to a predetermined enlargement ratio without compressing the photographed image and outputting the instantaneously enlarged photographed image as the selected cropped image.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) The image enlarging method as described in claim 5, wherein said cropping of the photographed image further includes specifying on the photographed image a start point at one corner of a rectangular cropped image and an end point at a diagonally opposite corner of the rectangular cropped image.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The image enlarging method as described in claim 5,

further comprising setting a location of the image to be cropped from the photographed image.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) An image enlarging apparatus comprising:

an image quality processor operable to output a photographed image of a subject, wherein a vertical line count and a horizontal line count of the photographed image are greater than a vertical line count and a horizontal line count of a television format;

an image trimming circuit operable to receive the photographed image output from said image quality processor, operable to crop the photographed image by cutting off at least a top portion and a bottom portion of the received photographed image such that (i) a vertical line count and a horizontal line count of the received photographed image are not compressed, and (ii) the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the cropped image matches the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the television format;

an image signal processing circuit operable to receive the photographed image output from said image quality processor, operable to compress the photographed image such that the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the photographed image match the vertical line count and the horizontal line count of the television format, and operable to generate a compressed image;

a switch operable to select at least one of the cropped image generated by said image trimming circuit and the compressed image generated by said image signal processing circuit and output the selected image; and

an image sizing circuit operable to receive the selected image output from said switch and operable to enlarge the selected image,

wherein, when said switch selects the cropped image, said image trimming circuit performs the cropping by instantaneously enlarging the photographed image according to a predetermined enlargement ratio without compressing the photographed image and outputs the instantaneously enlarged photographed image to said switching as the selected cropped image.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) The image enlarging apparatus as described in claim 9, wherein said image trimming circuit is further operable to specify on the photographed image a start point at one corner of a rectangular cropped image and an end point at a diagonally opposite corner of the rectangular cropped image.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The image enlarging apparatus as described in claim 9, further comprising an operating unit operable to set a location of the image to be cropped from the photographed image.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The image enlarging apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein, when said switching means selects the cropped image, the instantaneously enlarged photographed image is received by said enlargement processing means sooner and at a higher resolution than when said switching means selects the compressed image.